

Remarks

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action mailed September 8, 2004. Claims 1-19 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-19 are pending for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority documentation in the pending application.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 stands objected to for lacking the word "and" after the last semicolon, and for stating "fo" which should read "to." Claim 1 has been amended to include the "and" after the semicolon. Applicant's copy of the as-filed application reads "to" on the second to last line of claim 1. Thus, no amendment is believed to be necessary with respect to "fo" in claim 1. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-10 and 19, and the allowance of claims 11-17.

Claims 2-10 are dependent upon claim 1, and believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons with respect to claim 1, in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. Claim 19 is dependent upon claim 18, and believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons with respect to claim 18, in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. Allowance of claims 2-10 and 19 is solicited.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,215,692 to Kang ("Kang" hereafter). Kang is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), because the inventive entity in Kang and the pending application is identical. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to MPEP §2136.04 (Different Inventive Entity;

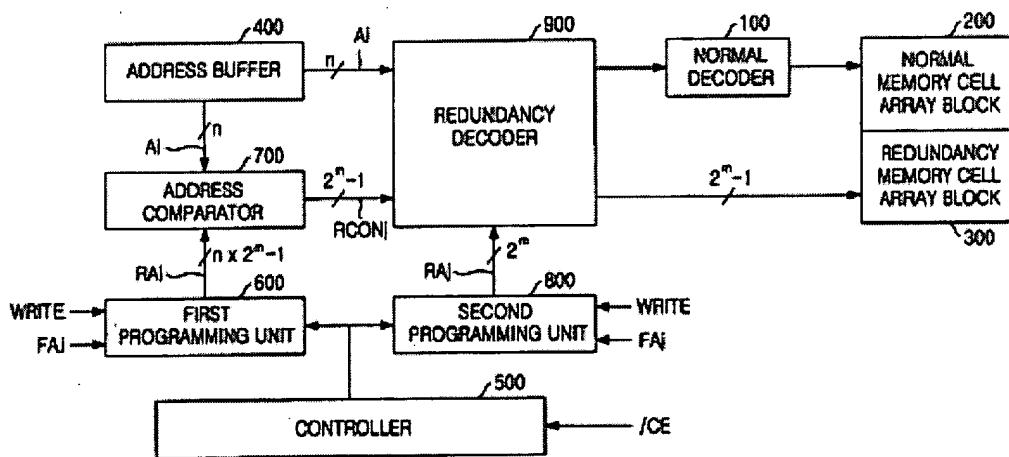
Meaning of "By Another"), which explains this requirement for 35 U.S.C. §102(e). As Kang is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kang is solicited.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,157,585 to Kim ("Kim" hereafter). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection over Kim for at least the following reasons.

Kim discloses a redundancy circuit and method of a ferroelectric memory device for software-wise repairing a failed normal memory cell by using a redundancy memory cell (col 1, lines 5-9). In particular, Kim is directed at addressing failures found at a burn-in test after packaging (col. 1, lines 22-25).

In the disclosed method, Kim preprograms addresses of failed cells found during burn-in testing. During operation, the redundancy circuit repairs a failed cell by comparing an inputted address with the fail address having already been stored, then selectively activating a normal cell block or a redundancy cell block according to the result of the comparison (col. 3, lines 4-8). See Figure 1 of Kim, provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

FIG. 1



Kim fails to disclose or suggest, however, a method for repairing failed cells that are discovered in memory chips already installed and being used in a given system. As such, Kim fails to disclose or suggest a repair request signal generated by an outer system when the failed cell is about to be accessed by the outer system as presently recited in claim 18. For at least this reason, Kim fails to anticipate claim 18. Withdrawal of the rejection over Kim is solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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